

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9

FACT SHEET

**Proposed Approval of San Joaquin Valley's 2003 PM-10 Plan Elements
Clean Air Act PM-10 Requirements - Section 189
San Joaquin Valley, California**

January 27, 2004

Today's Action

- EPA is today proposing to approve the following elements of the San Joaquin Valley's 2003 PM-10 Plan:
 - (1) the emissions inventories;
 - (2) the motor vehicle emissions budgets and trading mechanism consistent with the attainment demonstration;
 - (3) the reasonably available control measure/best available control measures (RACM/BACM) demonstration for all significant source categories;
 - (4) the attainment demonstration based on commitments to adopt new BACM, commitments to adopt measures necessary for attainment, and a commitment for a mid-course review and a SIP revision by March 31, 2006 that will include an evaluation of the modeling from the California Regional PM-10/PM-2.5 Air Quality Study (CRPAQS) and the latest technical information (inventory data, monitoring, etc.) to reexamine whether the level of emission reductions in the 2003 PM-10 Plan is sufficient to attain the PM-10 standards;
 - (5) the commitments for VOC and SO_x measures to strengthen the SIP;
 - (6) the demonstration that the plan will meet the five percent per year reduction provision of the Clean Air Act;
 - (7) and the reasonable further progress and quantitative milestone demonstrations.
- The notice of proposed rulemaking and technical support document provide detailed evaluations of each of these elements. EPA requests comments within 30 days of the publication date of the notice of proposed rulemaking.

Background

- Upon enactment of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, the San Joaquin Valley was designated a moderate nonattainment area for PM-10. On January 8, 1993, EPA determined that the San Joaquin Valley could not achieve clean air by the deadline for moderate areas and thus reclassified the Valley as a serious area.
- In 1997, the State submitted a serious area PM-10 attainment plan for the San Joaquin Valley; however, the State withdrew this plan from EPA consideration in February 2002. The withdrawal led to a finding of failure to submit the San Joaquin Valley's serious area plan requirements in February 2002.
- After the Valley failed to attain by the serious area attainment date, December 31, 2001, EPA issued a finding of failure to attain in August 2002. For areas which fail to attain the PM-10 standard by the applicable attainment date, CAA section 189(d) requires a 5% per year attainment plan submittal within one year of the attainment date. EPA issued a finding of failure to submit the the section 189(d) requirements in March 2003.
- The State's submittal of the 2003 PM-10 Plan for the San Joaquin Valley resulted in a completeness determination by EPA on August 22, 2003.

Air Quality in the San Joaquin Valley

- The San Joaquin Valley is one of only eight serious PM-10 nonattainment areas in the country. For urban areas nationwide, the San Joaquin Valley has the third highest average annual mean PM-10 concentration (ranking only behind Phoenix, Arizona and the greater Los Angeles area).
- PM-10 concentrations recorded over the last few years in Corcoran and Bakersfield have been significantly above the federal standard.
- Particulate matter can accumulate in the respiratory system, penetrate deeply into the lungs and contribute to health effects such as asthma, decreased lung function and alterations in respiratory tract defense mechanisms.

Further Information

- A copy of the final notice of proposed rulemaking and technical support document will soon be available in the Air Programs section of EPA Region 9's website, <http://www.epa.gov/region09/air/>.
- For more information, please contact Doris Lo, U.S. EPA Region 9, Air Planning Office, at 415-972-3959; lo.doris@epa.gov.